

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended):

An apparatus for emptying containers of fruit and vegetable produce, the apparatus comprising

a tipping device for tipping at least one container and movable between a first operating position to load said container, and a second operating position to unload the container; and

a conveying device having an input station for receiving the container from the tipping device, and an emptying station for emptying the container, the conveying device feeding the container in a given first direction and along a path extending between said input and emptying stations; and

wherein said path is of a length, measured parallel to said first direction, at least equal to a length of said container, also measured parallel to said first direction; and

wherein the emptying of the container commences after the container has been entirely unloaded from the tipping device and moved along said path; and

wherein the conveying device comprises first and second conveying means arranged in series along said path; and

wherein the apparatus further comprises:

an ejecting device for transferring said container from the tipping device to said first conveying means at a first traveling speed; and

actuating means for so controlling said second conveying means as to feed the container through said emptying station at a second traveling speed lower than said first traveling speed, and for so controlling said first conveying means as to selectively feed the container at said first traveling speed when transferring the container from the tipping device to the first conveying means, and at said second traveling speed during at least part of the transfer of the container from the first to the second conveying means.

Claim 2. (Cancelled).

Claim 3 (Previously Presented).

The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1,
wherein said path is of a length, measured parallel to said first direction, greater than a length of said container, also measured parallel to said first direction.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended).

The apparatus as claimed in Claim 1,
wherein ~~the conveying device (8) comprises first and second conveying means (27, 28) arranged in series along said path (T1);~~ the first conveying means feeds feeding said container

along a portion of the path having a length, measured parallel to said first direction, at least equal to a length of said container, also measured parallel to said first direction.

Claims 5 and 6 (Cancelled).

Claim 7. (Previously Presented).

An apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, and also comprising a further conveying device for feeding said container to said tipping device in a second direction sloping with respect to said first direction by an angle of other than 90°.

Claim 8. (Cancelled).